Bhagwan Mahavira Birth Centenary Celebrations

653. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount utilised as on 30th June 2005, out of Rs. 100 crore fund earmarked for Bhagwan Mahavira 2600th Birth Centenary Celebrations, State-wise and project-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that many projects from the above fund have not been started yet;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and project-wise; and

(d) the unspent amount out of the above fund, State-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Lord Buddha's Birth Anniversary

654. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:'

(a) whether Government have planned to celebrate the year 2006, as the 2550th year of Lord Buddha's birth anniversary, in a befitting manner as was done during the 2500th birth anniversary, fifty years back;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes being undertaken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) In May, 1956, Government of India had commemorated the 2500th anniversary of the Mahaparinirvana of Lord Buddha. Government are working out detailed plan to commemorate the important occasion of Lord Buddha falling in the year 2006.

Status of ISBT at Silchar, Guwahati and Aizwal

655. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARAJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Inter-State Bus Terminus (ISBT) at Silchar, Guwahati and Aizwal; and